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 ✓ Hard Times
 P-Ridgeway, James

Mayday Runs Into Hard Times

Mayday has had to abandon its name. *Mayday*, a political weekly is now *Hard Times*. A west coast longshoreman's union proved its prior claim to the original name.

Hard Times, alias *Mayday*, is edited at the Washington, D.C., home of James Ridgeway (of *The New Republic*.) Ridgeway is co-editor with Andrew Kopkind (of *The Manchester Guardian*) and Robert Sherrill (of *The Nation*). The first issue was dated October 11, 1968.

Hard Times' publishing consultant, book publisher Richard Grossman, told *The Independent* that the original investment was \$20,000. It was raised by the three editors and some unidentified friends. Grossman won't detail the size or source of the investors. Editorial control is evenly divided by Ridgeway, Kopkind, and Sherrill. The three men

themselves manage to turn out two thirds of the articles for the four-page, tabloid-sized paper. Consumer crusader Ralph Nader also contributes (he is listed as Consulting Editor), and Grossman informs *The Independent* that *Hard Times* has (unpaid) reporters widely scattered over the world.

Grossman sees *Hard Times* as a "non-cultist, muckraking" newspaper, given birth by a mutual desire of those involved to "design and create their own platform for expression."

The editors at present draw no salary from *Hard Times*. But *Hard Times* is growing. Its four to five thousand subscribers are a more effective group of people than the numbers indicate.

(To obtain a sample copy, write *Hard Times*, 80 Irving Place, New York, N.Y. 10003.)